

First record of *Cercosaura argulus* (Peters, 1863) (Squamata: Gymnophthalmidae) for the state of Maranhão, Brazil

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ABSTRACT: *Cercosaura argulus* (Peters, 1863) is widely spread throughout much of the Brazilian Amazon and its neighboring countries. This paper presents the first record of this species in the state of Maranhão, extending its known geographical distribution by 320 kilometers south from Apeú in Pará, and the first record for the northeast region of Brazil.

The genus *Cercosaura* Wagler, 1830 is comprised of nine species in Brazil (Bérnils and Costa 2012). *Cercosaura argulus* is known for the Amazon region in Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, French Guiana and Brazil (Avila-Pires 1995; Bartlett and Bartlett 2003; Duellman 2005). In Brazil, it occurs in the states of Acre (Avila-Pires *et al.* 2009; Bernarde *et al.* 2011), Pará (Avila-Pires 1995; Silva Jr. and Sites Jr. 1995; Avila-Pires *et al.* 2010; Maschio *et al.* 2012; Prudente *et al.* 2013), Rondônia (Avila-Pires 1995; Silva Jr. and Sites Jr. 1995; Macedo *et al.* 2008; Avila-Pires *et al.* 2009; Marçal *et al.* 2011) and Amazonas (Vitt *et al.* 2003; França and Venâncio 2010; Waldez *et al.* 2013).

The species was trap intercepted and drop in pitfall trap in the Gurupi Biological Reserve, as a result of the

implementation of the project “Survey of Herpetofauna” at this conservation unit to be carried out between December 2012 and December 2013 (ICMBio-SISBIO 36669-1).

On December 1, 2012 an adult *Cercosaura argulus* (Peters, 1863) (Figure 1) was collected in the study area (04°00’20” S, 46°46’41” W). The specimen was fixed in 10% formalin, preserved in 70% ethanol and deposited in the Herpetological Collection of the Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco (CHP-UFRPE 2622). Despite being widely distributed throughout the Amazon, records are specific and absent in several previous inventories. This record is the first for the state of Maranhão and the first of its kind for the northeastern region of Brazil, extending the known distribution of this species by about 320 kilometers south of Apeú, Pará (Avila-Pires 1995) (Figure 2).



FIGURE 1. *Cercosaura argulus* (CPH-UFRPE 2622) collected in the Reserva Biológica do Gurupi, Maranhão, Brazil (Photoby Marco Antonio de Freitas).



FIGURE 2. Map showing the known distribution of *Cercosaura argulus* in Brazil. White circles with central dot = literature records; red circle with central dot = new locality record.

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